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ample and efforts has incited us all to closer acquaintance with our beautiful woods, lakes, &c. She discovered *Botrychium Lunaria* and *Botrychium matricariæfolium* in this County, and we hope to find *Asplenium ebenoides* also. Mrs. Barnes discovered the *Botrychium simplex*, in all its varieties, in the Adirondack region near Section No. 4, also *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, at Oneida, N. Y.

Several members of our Club wish to purchase rare herbarium specimens of North American ferns. Correspondents may address "The Rust Botanical Club," corner Green and Hawley Streets, SYRACUSE, N. Y. A MEMBER.

§ 290. *Aletris*.—Some time since I collected, on the road from Atsion to Tuckerton, I think at Bass River, between the two bridges, a peculiar form of *Aletris aurea*, Walt. It seems to be intermediate between *A. farinosa* and *A. aurea*, L. On referring it to Prof. Watson, he marks it *A. aurea* (?), and asks for a study of it while in flower, and desires mature specimens. Will Botanists collecting in that vicinity please look for it?

My brother collected at Maama, (or Miama,) Dade Co., Florida, a plant which Prof. Watson identifies as *Carica Papaya*, L. It is thoroughly naturalized, so far as I can judge by the representations of several unscientific friends who have lived there.

FRANKLIN, N. J.

H. H. RUSBY.

§ 291. *A Gigantic Aroid from Sumatra*.—Not long since the announcement was made to the Linnean Society, that Dr. Beccari had discovered in the Island of Sumatra a gigantic Aroid, the bulb of which measured five feet in circumference, while the much divided leaf of the plant covered an area of 45 feet in circumference! More recently a fuller account of the plant has been received from Dr. Beccari, and from this we gather the following particulars:

In external appearance and in distribution of color the new Aroid is much like the *Amorphophallus campanulatus*, the shape of the spathe being nearly the same. As to its generic character, the discoverer considers it to be nearly intermediate between the two genera *Conophallus* and *Amorphophallus*. The specimen examined possessed a spadix nearly 6 feet long, and this not including the length of the scape, which was 20 inches long and 3 inches thick (about the dimensions of the leaf-stalk). The scape was of a green color, marked with whitish orbicular spots. The largest diameter of the spathe was nearly 3 feet and its depth about 28 inches; its shape was campanulate, with deeply toothed and crumpled edges. The deeper portion of the interior was of a very pale greenish color, but the limb was of a bright blackish-purple hue. The outside of the spathe was pale green, smooth in the lower portion, but thickly corrugated and crisp above. The spadix, deprived of the spathe, measured more than 5 feet; for 8 inches of its length only it was covered with pistils underneath and with stamens above them, the sterile organs being entirely wanting. The appendix was consequently reduced to a total length of about 4.3 feet, having at the base a diameter of 8 inches, gradually tapering towards a very obtuse apex. The ovaries were purple-colored, trilocular, or sometimes bilocular, with a single anatropal ovule in each cell; free, globose-conic shaped, tapering into a long

style, terminated by a globose, externally trilobed, yellowish stigma. The stamens were sessile, with globose subdidymous anthers, opening by two narrow fissures or pores at the apex. From the description of the plant as given by Dr. Beccari, it is the opinion of English botanists that it will turn out to be a species of *Brachyspatha*.

§ 292. **The Smallest Orchid Known.**—Closely following the account of the discovery of the largest Aroid, comes the news of the rediscovery of the smallest orchid known to science. Baron Von Mueller states, in a recent letter, that more than twenty years ago, he was shown a very minute creeping orchid, from the vicinity of Port Jackson, East Australia, and that the plant was highly remarkable for its extremely small disk-like leaves. It was discovered by the Rev. Robert King, of New South Wales, and by him named *Bolbophyllum moniliforme*. The plant was lost sight of until very recently, when it was rediscovered by a Mr. Fawcett on the Richmond river. The leaves of this pigmy orchid are sessile on a creeping rhizome, and often form bead-like stems—whence the specific name. The leaves are orbicular, flat, horizontal, and only one-eighth or one-sixth of an inch in diameter! Thus this orchid has the smallest leaves of any species in the whole order. Indeed, an observer, seeing the plant creeping among mosses, might readily take it for one of the Hepaticæ. The small red flowers are produced singly on peduncles hardly longer than the leaves, and measure only one-sixth of an inch. "While thus," says Baron Von Mueller, "East Australia possesses the dwarfiest of all orchids, it counts among its plants also the one with the minutest flower, namely, *Oberonia palmicola*."

§ 293. **Old Egyptain Vegetation.**—In the *Journal of Botany* for February an abstract is given of an interesting paper by the late Alexander Braun on an examination of the vegetable remains in the Egyptian Museum in Berlin. One of the most attractive questions leading to this examination was whether the vegetable remains, nearly five thousand years old, presented any important differences from present forms of the same species. It seems, however, that, with the exception of a few unimportant variations from the present forms of the fruits of the pomegranate, no actual difference exists between the ancient and modern specimens of the same species. Prof. Braun seems to have been led to make the examination through the remarkable discovery of Prof. Heer, of Zurich, that the flax found in the lake dwellings does not belong to the species now cultivated (*Linum usitatissimum*) but the *Linum angustifolium*, Huds., which is not now cultivated, although a native of the Mediterranean region, France, and Britain. That flax was cultivated in great quantities, and used in many ways in Egypt, is well known. Mummy cloths are always of linen, and priests were compelled to wear linen garments. Unger found a thread of flax in a brick from the pyramid of Daschur by which the cultivation of this plant is carried back 4,000 before Christ. What particular species of *Linum* was cultivated in Egypt is a point yet to be settled. *Linum angustifolium* has fruits and seeds only half the size of those of *L. usitatissimum*, so that the two are easily distinguished.